

Partners for Warmth



PITTSBURGH NATURAL GAS UTILITIES ESTABLISH “PARTNERS FOR WARMTH” TO ASSIST CUSTOMERS

*Initiative Promotes Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
in Western Pennsylvania*

PITTSBURGH, PA (Nov. 10, 2010) – Western Pennsylvania’s three natural gas utilities today announced the formation of a new partnership whose goal is to help customers stay safe and warm in their homes this winter heating season by promoting the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

The “Partners for Warmth” — comprised of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Equitable Gas Company and Peoples Natural Gas Company — formalizes a 20 year relationship of joint promotion of LIHEAP in the Pittsburgh area. The announcement of the Partners for Warmth coincides with the 2010 opening of LIHEAP enrollment in Pennsylvania.

“This past winter, almost 93,000 households across Southwestern Pennsylvania used LIHEAP funds to stay safe and warm in their homes,” said Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania President Carol Fox. “It is important that individuals and families receive the assistance they need. Therefore, Columbia Gas, Equitable Gas and Peoples Natural Gas have formed the Partners for Warmth to continue our joint LIHEAP promotion efforts to let our customers know that help is available. Our goal is to encourage all of our customers who qualify to apply for LIHEAP grants.”

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LIHEAP is a federally funded program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) which helps income-eligible families pay winter heating costs. The program provides a one-time cash grant to assist with paying home heating bills.

“I am pleased to work with Columbia Gas, Equitable Gas and Peoples Natural Gas on this unique partnership to let customers know that there are programs available to help them keep warm this winter,” said Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate Sonny Popowsky. “In addition to the federal LIHEAP program, each of these companies offers excellent payment assistance and home weatherization programs to low-income and payment-troubled customers. These companies also work with community-based organizations like the Dollar Energy Fund to help keep people from losing their utility service. I hope that all natural gas customers who need assistance in this part of Pennsylvania will take advantage of these programs.”

The Partners for Warmth today launched a television advertising campaign and grass roots outreach initiative to increase awareness of available LIHEAP funds, including a television commercial featuring former Pittsburgh Steeler and NFL Hall of Famer Franco Harris. Harris, who has served as the LIHEAP spokesperson for the three natural gas companies in Western Pennsylvania for almost two decades, encourages customers who think they may be eligible to apply early.

“Tough times can happen to anyone, and the Partners for Warmth want you to know that help paying your heating bill is available,” said Harris. “Everyone knows someone that may be having a hard time paying their bills right now, and the only way we can be sure that all families are safe and warm this winter is if we work together to ensure that anyone that needs help receives the assistance available.”

Eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP change annually, and customers who may not have been eligible in the past are encouraged to reapply. For the 2010-2011 winter heating season, the income eligibility limit is 160% of federal poverty income guidelines. This

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means a family of four cannot exceed an annual income of \$35,280 to be eligible. In addition, the minimum grant has been increased to \$300. LIHEAP closes March 31, 2011, or earlier if funds run out.

Customers can access an application through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Access to Social Service Web site (COMPASS) at www.compass.state.pa.us, through their natural gas utilities at the phone numbers listed below or through the Partners for Warmth at www.PartnersforWarmth.org or by calling 1-866-827-1281.

For additional details about LIHEAP and other assistance programs, customers can contact their natural gas company by calling one of the following numbers:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania	1-800-272-2714
Peoples Natural Gas	1-800-400-9276
Equitable Gas	1-800-644-8090

To apply, the utility customer must provide the following information:

1. Names of people in the household
2. Dates of birth for people in the household
3. Social Security numbers for all members of the household
4. Proof of income for all members of the household
5. A copy of a recent heating bill

Media Contacts:

Columbia Gas
Mike Marcus
724-416-6333

MMarcus@NiSource.com

Equitable Gas
Scott Waitlevertch
412-395-2314

swaitlevertch@equitablegas.com

Peoples Natural Gas
Barry Kukovich
412-473-3910

barry.d.kukovich@peoples-gas.com

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, with local headquarters in Canonsburg, Pa. (Washington County), serves approximately 413,000 customers in 26 counties. It is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. Visit Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania online at www.ColumbiaGasPa.com.

Equitable Gas Company

Equitable Gas Company is a provider of safe and dependable natural gas service to approximately 275,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers located mainly in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Its customer base also includes more than 200 municipalities in nine other counties in western Pennsylvania, 12 counties in central and northern West Virginia, and nine counties in eastern Kentucky. Additional information about Equitable Gas can be obtained through its Web site at www.equitablegas.com.

Peoples Natural Gas Company

Peoples Natural Gas serves 359,000 customers in sixteen counties in southwestern PA and is part of PNG Companies, LLC, and a subsidiary of SteelRiver Infrastructure Fund North American LP. For more information about Peoples Gas, visit our website: www.peoples-gas.com

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Partners for Warmth



Partners for Warmth Press Conference Speakers List

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Deb Davis, Universal Services Manager
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Carol Fox, President
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Theresa Kail-Smith, Councilwoman, Dist. 2
Pittsburgh City Council

Tyrone Christy, Vice Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Sonny Popowsky, Consumer Advocate
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

Franco Harris
Former Pittsburgh Steeler



Partners for Warmth

Columbia Gas[®]
of Pennsylvania
A NiSource Company

Equitable Gas
reliable by nature

 PEOPLES
NATURAL GAS[™]

Who Received LIHEAP?

2010 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Demographic Overview

Recipients' Profile

	<u>Allegheny County</u>	<u>State Wide</u>
Older Adults	33%	31%
Disabled/Handicapped	33%	35%
Homeowners	37%	42%
Renters	57%	52%

Recipients' Annual Income Range Profile

	<u>Allegheny County</u>	<u>State Wide</u>
\$ 0 - \$ 4,999	11%	8%
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	33%	31%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	32%	31%
\$15,000 - \$19,999	15%	18%
\$20,000 and over	9%	12%

Fuel Type

	<u>Allegheny County</u>	<u>State Wide</u>
Natural Gas	80%	51%
Electric	18%	21%
Fuel Oil	1%	20%
Kerosene, Propane & Coal	<1%	7%



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Equitable Gas
reliable by nature

 **PEOPLES
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**2010 - 2011
Income Guidelines
for
Pennsylvania Utility Assistance Programs**

Household Size	MONTHLY INCOME		
	CAP & WEATHERIZATION	LIHEAP/ CRISIS	\$1 ENERGY FUND
	150%	160%	200%
1	\$1,354	\$1,444	\$1,805
2	\$1,821	\$1,943	\$2,428
3	\$2,289	\$2,441	\$3,052
4	\$2,756	\$2,940	\$3,675
5	\$3,224	\$3,439	\$4,298
6	\$3,691	\$3,937	\$4,922
7	\$4,159	\$4,436	\$5,545
8	\$4,626	\$4,935	\$6,168
Each additional person	\$468	\$499	\$623

All figures are based on gross income. Percentages represent Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

Partners for Warmth



UTILITY UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Customer Assistance, Referral & Evaluation Services (CARES)

The CARES program helps those customers who have a true inability to pay their utility bills and who are facing other problems as well. CARES representatives review the customer's situation and provide referral information about agencies that may be able to help the customer. The CARES representatives also work with the family to provide information and referral to fuel assistance programs and social service agencies. In addition, the CARES representatives work with the social service agencies to assist their clients in times of need.

Customer Assistance Program (CAP)

The Customer Assistance Program (called CAP) is a special payment plan for low income, payment-troubled customers. Customers with gross household incomes equal to or less than 150% of the Federal poverty level may qualify and, if eligible, are placed on a reduced payment plan. CAP participants are required to make regular monthly payments and, in return, receive credits to reduce their original balance over a period of time and ensure no additional charges accrue.

Weatherization & Conservation

Utility companies offer free weatherization services to low-income households to help reduce natural gas consumption and increase efficiency. Eligible households will receive a safety inspection and energy audit. Measures that provide the greatest energy savings will be installed and may include

- Heating system repairs or replacement
- Attic and wall insulation
- Caulking and weather-stripping

Eligibility of customers who participate in the program varies among utilities. Some or all of the following factors will be considered when determining eligibility:

- Income level and status of property ownership (homeowner or renter)
- Length of time utility has served customer
- Natural gas consumption level

Third Party Notification

Customers can designate a third party to be notified in the event that they forget to pay their gas bill. Such notification can help prevent a possible gas service shut off. Those notified might be a relative, friend, neighbor, landlord or whomever the customer selects to be informed about problem situations.

PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Dollar Energy Fund Opened October 1, 2010

Dollar Energy Fund is an independent, non-profit organization that provides assistance to people who are on low or fixed incomes. DEF receives donations from utility customers that are matched by the utilities. The utility companies also donate funding for administration.

To be eligible for a DEF grant, a customer must meet the following requirements:

- Households whose gas or electric service is off. If customer is eligible for LIHEAP and Crisis, the customer must apply for these benefits, when available, before applying for the DEF.
- Total household income for the past 30 days or one year, before taxes or deductions, cannot be more than 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Account must be for residential service to a single home or apartment.
- The name on the account must be that of an adult who is currently living in the household.
- Applicants must have paid at least \$150 on their account in the last 90 days.
- Senior citizens age 62 and over must have paid at least \$100 in the last 90 days.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Opened November 1, 2010

LIHEAP is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households with winter heating bills. Although LIHEAP is administered by the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW), it is not a public assistance program.

Customers receiving LIHEAP in the previous year will automatically receive a new application by mail. Others can receive applications by calling:

Partners for Warmth

1-866-827-1281

Applications are also available at the local County Assistance Office or online at www.dpw.state.pa.us.

Assistance is available now for households currently without heat. Customers should apply directly at their local county assistance office.

Crisis – Emergency Energy Assistance Opens January 3, 2011

Additional funds are available if a customer has an emergency situation and is in danger of losing their heat. Emergency situations include:

- Being without heat
- Utility service termination
- In danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated
- Broken heating equipment or leaking lines which must be fixed or replaced

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Where to Apply for LIHEAP

Adams County Board of Assistance

225 South Franklin Street
PO Box 4446
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-6241
Toll Free: 1-800-638-6816

Allegheny County Board of Assistance (LIHEAP)

Warner Center
332 5th Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-562-0330 (LIHEAP)
412-565-2146

Allegheny County Board of Assistance (Crisis)

Allegheny County Dept. Of Human Services
One Smithfield Street – 1st
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 1-800-851-3838

Armstrong County Board of Assistance

1280 North Water Street
Kittanning, PA 16201-0898
Phone: 724-543-1651 (Main)
724-543-6076 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-543-5105

Beaver County Board of Assistance

171 Virginia Avenue
Rochester, PA 15074-0349
Phone: 724-773-7300 (Main)
724-773-7495 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-653-3129

Blair County Board of Assistance

1100 Green Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone: 814-946-7365 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-866-812-3341

Butler County Board of Assistance

108 Woody Drive
Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-284-8844
Toll Free: 1-866-256-0093

Cambria County Board of Assistance

625 Main St
Johnstown, PA 15901
Phone: 814-533-2491 (Main)
814-533-2253 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-877-315-0389

Centre County Board of Assistance (LIHEAP)

2580 Park Center Boulevard
State College, PA 16801
Phone: 814-863-6571 (Main)
814-861-1955 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-355-6024

Centre County Board of Assistance (Crisis)

Clearfield Community Action
109 W. Bishop Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: 814-355-7501

Clarion County Board of Assistance

71 Lincoln Drive
Clarion, PA 16214
Phone: 814-226-1700 (Main)
814-226-1780 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-253-3488

Elk County Board of Assistance

145 Race Street
PO Box F
Ridgway, PA 15853
Phone: 814-776-1101 (Main)
814-772-5215 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-847-0257

Fayette County Board of Assistance

41 West Church Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
Phone: 724-439-7015 (Main)
724-439-7125 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-877-832-7545

Forest County Board of Assistance

Tionesta Towne House, Rear
171 Elm Street Rear
Tionesta, PA 16353-0367
Phone: 814-755-3552 (Main)
Toll Free: 1-800-876-0645

Franklin County Board of Assistance

620 Norland Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201
Phone: 717-264-6121 (Main)
717-262-6579 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-921-8839

Greene County Board of Assistance

100 Greene Plaza
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone: 724-627-8171 (Main)
724-627-7668 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-888-410-5658

Where to Apply for LIHEAP

Indiana County Board of Assistance

2750 West Pike Road
Indiana, PA 15701
Phone: 724-357-2900 (Main)
724-357-2918 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-742-0679

Jefferson County Board of Assistance

100 Prushnok Drive
PO Box 720
Punxsutawney, PA 15767-0720
Phone: 814-938-2990 (Main)
814-938-1329 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-242-8214

Lawrence County Board of Assistance

108 Cascade Galleria Attn: LIHEAP
New Castle, PA 16101
Phone: 724-656-3021 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-847-4522

Mercer County Board of Assistance

2236 Highland Rd
Hermitage, PA 16148
Phone: 724-983-5000 (Main)
724-983-5022 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-747-8405

McKean County Board of Assistance

68 Chestnut Street Suite B
Bradford, PA 16701
Phone: 814-362-4671 (Main)
Toll Free: 1-800-822-1108

Somerset County Board of Assistance

164 Stayrook Street
Somerset, PA 15501
Phone: 814-443-3681 (Main)
814-443-3683 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-248-1607

Venango County Board of Assistance

530 13th Street
Franklin, PA 16323-0391
Phone: 814-437-4354 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-877-409-2421

Warren County Board of Assistance

300 Hospital Drive Suite E
Warren, PA 16365
Phone: 814-723-6330 (Main)
814-726-2540 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-403-4043

Washington County Board of Assistance

Valley District
(W. Brownsville, California up to Finleyville)
595 Galiffa Drive
PO Box 592
Donora, PA 15033-0592
Phone: 724-379-1500 (Main)
724-379-1549 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-392-6932

Washington County Board of Assistance

167 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 5004
Washington, PA 15301
Phone: 724-223-4300 (Main)
724-223-5246 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-835-9720

Westmoreland Co. Board of Assistance (Westmoreland - District 1)

587 Sells Lane
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: 724-832-5200 (Main)
724-832-5524 (LIHEAP)
Toll Free: 1-800-905-5413

Westmoreland Co. Board of Assistance (New Kensington – Alle-Kiski District 2)

909 Industrial Boulevard
New Kensington, PA 15068
Phone: 724-339-6800 (Main)
Toll Free: 1-800-622-3527

Westmoreland County Board of Assistance (Donora - District 4)

595 Galiffa Drive
P.O. Box 592
Donora, PA 15033-0592
Phone: 724-379-1500 (Main)
Toll Free: 1-800-238-9094

York Co. Board of Assistance

130 N. Duke Street
PO Box 15041
York, PA 17405
Phone: 717-771-1100 (Main)
Toll Free: 1-800-991-0929